

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Pasadena, California

March 5, 1958

TO: Respondents to Cancer Questionnaire
FROM: G. W. Beadle
SUBJECT: Results of opinion survey

I enclose a tabulation of answers to questions on support of cancer research.

Thank you for your help. The results will be helpful to the Council, I'm sure.

Please regard the results as CONFIDENTIAL in the sense that they should not be referred to publicly in talks or publications.

I should add that many of the comments made on the returned questionnaires are interesting and useful.

G. W. Beadle

Questions on the Support of Research on Cancer

1. Assuming you were in the position of needing support for the most important research project for which you are currently responsible and were in an institution in which it is appropriate to apply for such support from an outside agency, how would you rate the following sources from the standpoint of general desirability? Use a 1 to 10 scale, where 1 is most desirable and 10 the least so:

(Note: Assume that all sources are willing to provide the desired support in the same amounts and according to their present policies as you understand them.)

	Rating 1-10	Comments
The American Cancer Society	4.4	
The Atomic Energy Commission	5.4	
National Institutes of Health	2.8	
The National Science Foundation	2.5	
The Rockefeller Foundation	3.2	
Funds from your own institution	3.5	

2. The American Cancer Society now has Advisory Committees that rate applications under the following categories: Etiology of Cancer, Pathogenesis of Cancer, Therapy of Cancer, Lung Cancer, Institutional Research Grants, Personnel for Research. Assuming it is the policy of the Society to support research in the biological and related physical sciences that underlies but does not immediately apply to the cancer problem, and that the first four Committees listed above interpret this policy in a sufficiently liberal way to permit support of the work in which you are currently active, in which of the following ways would you react to having an application from you assigned to one of these committees for evaluation:

(Note: The membership of the Committees is broadly representative of various areas of science and you should assume that the one to which your application would be referred would include members competent to judge your proposal.)

1) Entirely satisfied	9	Comments, if any
2) Satisfied with reservations	57	
3) Dissatisfied	27	
Total	93	

3. If you checked 2 or 3 above, would you be better satisfied if your application were referred to a new Committee for Research in Biological and Related Physical Sciences Underlying Cancer but not obviously relevant to Etiology, Pathogenesis, Therapy or Lung Cancer?

Yes	No	Neutral	
75	4	8	Total 87

4. Do you think such a new committee is desirable, assuming it will continue to be the policy of the Society to support research in areas of the biological and physical sciences that clearly underlie the cancer problem but in ways that are not easily apparent at present: (Examples: Protein synthesis, normal differentiation, nucleic acid structure, gene structure and action, etc.)

Yes	No	Neutral	
76	1	10	Total 87

5. Do you believe the establishment of a new committee for the above purpose would tend to emphasize in an undesirable way to investigators a distinction between basic and applied research in cancer?

(Note: In answering, assume that committees on etiology etc. will continue to consider applications for the support of work in biology and physical sciences that might be called "basic" but which is clearly relevant to etiology, pathogenesis, therapy and lung cancer. Assume also that research grants will be classified for administrative purposes as etiology, pathogenesis, therapy, lung cancer or biology and physical sciences.)

Yes	No	Neutral	
13	72	5	Total 90